

# Water Quality Standards Database Release 5.0

October, 2003

## Summary

EPA is developing a National Water Quality Standards Database (WQSDB) to improve public access to information on how the waters they care about are being protected, and how actions in their watershed can help or harm those waters. The first phase of this on-line database consists of a compilation of "designated uses," which describe the functions each waterbody is intended to support -- fishing, swimming, drinking water source, or some other use. The second phase of the WQSDB will add numeric "water quality criteria," which represent the quality of water that supports particular uses. When completed, the WQSDB will allow access to maps and tables for all of the approximately 2.7 million surface water bodies across the nation. You can visit the database at: [www.epa.gov/wqsdatabase](http://www.epa.gov/wqsdatabase). You can also select waters of interest from maps viewable at EnviroMapper for Water [map8.epa.gov/enviromapper/](http://map8.epa.gov/enviromapper/).

## Support of Water Programs

The WQS Program is coordinating with the Assessment Program to facilitate comparison of monitoring data and water quality standards to conduct assessments. This coordination includes developing common database definitions and codes for use by the WQSDB and the Assessment Database (ADB) <http://epa.gov/waters/305b/index.html>. These definitions and codes are included in the "palette," a preliminary step in developing the state-wide tables of designated uses listed in the status tables below. However, the palettes are not visible on the Internet.

The WQS Program is also coordinating with the Drinking Water Program to facilitate the comparison of WQS and criteria with the National Public Drinking Water Requirements for surface waters used as source water..

## Status

The October 2003 update on the Internet of the WQSDB includes approved information on designated uses in table form for 28 states, tribes, and territories. Surface water maps<sup>1</sup> also are available for 24 of these states. (**New or updated data for six jurisdictions are shown in bold type.**)

Arizona	Table and Map	Montana	Table
Colorado	Table and Map	Nebraska	Table and Map
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes	Table and Map	Nevada	Table and Map

<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>Table and Map</b>	New Mexico	Table and Map
Delaware	Table and Map	North Dakota	Table and Map
<b>District of Columbia</b>	<b>Table and Map</b>	Oklahoma	Table
Florida	Table and Map	Rhode Island	Table
Idaho	Table and Map	South Carolina	Table and Map
<b>Illinois</b>	<b>Table and Map</b>	South Dakota	Table and Map
Iowa	Table and Map	Tennessee	Table and Map
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>Table and Map</b>	Texas	Table
Louisiana	Table and Map	<b>Utah</b>	<b>Table and Map</b>
<b>Missouri</b>	Table <sup>2</sup> and Map	Virgin Islands	Table and Map
Mississippi	Table <sup>2</sup> and Map	West Virginia	Table and Map

1. Maps can be accessed from the WQSDB homepage.
2. Includes numeric water quality criteria.

## Data Awaiting State Approval

Nineteen states are reviewing new and updated data, which we hope to include in the March 2004 update to the WQSDB:

Alaska	Palette	New Hampshire	Palette
Florida	Table (Criteria)	New Mexico	Updated T&M
Illinois	Table (Criteria)	North Carolina	Table and Map
Indiana	Palette, Table, Map	Ohio	Table and Map
Louisiana	Table	Oklahoma	Map
Maine	Palette	South Dakota	Map
Minnesota	Table and Map	Texas	Map
Mississippi	Table (Criteria)	Vermont	Palette
Missouri	Table (Criteria)	Virginia	Palette, Table, Map
Montana	Map		

## Anticipated New States

We have begun, or expect to begin, work in 2004 with at least the following ten jurisdictions:

Alabama	Palette	New Jersey	Palette
Arizona	Update T&M	New York	Palette
Hawaii	Palette	Pennsylvania	Palette
Michigan	Palette	Puerto Rico	Palette
Maryland	Palette	Wyoming	Palette

## **For More Information**

or comments on the WQSDB, please contact Bill Kramer at: (202) 566-0385, or [kramer.bill@epa.gov](mailto:kramer.bill@epa.gov)

WQSDB Web Site: [www.epa.gov/wqsdatabase](http://www.epa.gov/wqsdatabase)

WQS Homepage: [www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/)

Links: to state, tribal, and federal WQS text documents, tables, and maps:  
[www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/states/](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/states/)

The WQSDB is a component of the WATERS information system, which also contains state listings of impaired waters; see: <http://www.epa.gov/waters/index.html>

Maps can be accessed from the WQSDB homepage or at [www.epa.gov/waters/enviromapper](http://www.epa.gov/waters/enviromapper). EnviroMapper allows information like designated uses to be shown on water body maps from the National Hydrography Dataset, maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey.